

Richard Nicholson Oral History Interview #1, 12/08/2011
Administrative Information

Narrator: Richard Nicholson

Interviewer: Anthony Macro

Date of Interview: December 8, 2011

Place of Interview: Nicholson's house, Glastonbury, CT

Accession number: 2013.30.01

Length: 21 pages, 85:41 minutes

Biographical Note and Abstract

Richard Nicholson was born on October 2, 1948, and grew up on King Street (now North King Street) in South Windsor, CT. His parents were both children of Irish immigrants, grew up in farming families, and ran a tobacco farm. He attended Union School through eighth grade and then went to East Catholic High School in Manchester, CT. Nicholson received a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, and a law degree from the University of Connecticut. He spent his career as a tax lawyer in the private and public sector, becoming Commissioner of Taxes for the State of CT from 2010 to 2011.

In this interview, Nicholson discusses his family history, his youth in South Windsor, and the Irish Catholic experience in South Windsor. He talks about his father's tobacco farm, including hiring migrant workers, using work horses, and processing tobacco. He also discusses his family's involvement and his own personal involvement in Connecticut state and local Democratic Party politics.

Usage Restrictions

According to the deed of gift signed December 8, 2011, title to these materials has been assigned to Wood Memorial Library. Users of these materials are advised to determine the copyright status of any document from which they wish to publish.

Copyright

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excesses of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement. This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law. The copyright law extends its protection to unpublished works from the moment of creation in a tangible form. Direct your questions concerning copyright to the archives staff.

Transcript of Oral History Interview

This transcript was made from an audio recording that can be found in the archives at the Wood Memorial Library. Transcripts were edited for clarity and were approved, sometimes with additional edits, by the narrator. If researchers have any concerns about accuracy, they are encouraged to visit the Library and consult the draft transcripts and recordings.

Suggested Citation

Richard Nicholson, recorded interview by Anthony Macro, December 8, 2011, (page number), Wood Memorial Library Oral History Program



Richard Nicholson, 2013

Richard Nicholson
Oral History Interview #1
Interviewed by Anthony Macro
December 8, 2011

MACRO: This is an interview of Richard Nicholson conducted on behalf of the Wood Memorial Library oral history project by Anthony Macro at Richard's house in Glastonbury on the morning of Thursday the eighth of December, 2011, at 9:45 in the morning. Now, Richard, you were born and bred in South Windsor. Is that correct?

NICHOLSON: Well, technically, I was born in St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, but once I came home, I spent my growing years—formative years—in South Windsor on King Street [#736], which is now known as North King Street, but at that point it was King Street that went from Main Street down to Route 5 in East Hartford. I was born on October 2, 1948. My father was Thomas Edward Nicholson. He was a tobacco grower—a tobacco farmer. My mother was Annie Fahey Nicholson. Coincidentally, they were both born in South Windsor. My father was born in 1907 and lived on Pleasant Valley Road.

My mother was born on Main Street in a red gambrel-roofed house that her parents farmed for one of the Burnham families. She was born in 1911 in that house [#272]. She spent about 7 years there. She went to Union School on Main Street, but only briefly because she and her family—her twin brothers and her mother and father moved to Hartford. My grandfather gave up his unrealistic dream of trying to be a farmer—according to my grandmother—and they bought a three-decker house in Wethersfield Avenue in Hartford, and then my grandfather had various jobs—like gardener and a custodian. I believe he called it something—janitor in those days, but now he would be a custodian at some of the schools at Hartford.

My father's father came from Ireland—came in the late 1800s. I don't have the exact date. He came from Waterford, Ireland. Somewhere along the line—and I don't have the exact date—he rented a place on Pleasant Valley Road and later bought the house next door, and then started to amass—amass sounds like a huge amount of property, but he started to get some property together, so he could run a tobacco farm.

In fact, all of my grandparents came from Ireland. My parents were first-generation Americans. As I said—my father's father, Richard P. Nicholson, emigrated from Waterford, Ireland. My mother's father came from Limerick, Ireland. My mother's mother came from Cork, Ireland, and my father's mother came from County Kerry in Ireland. I must say that I didn't know my grandmother on my father's side, because she died when I was one year old. I never got to know her. The other three grandparents died at some point when I was 9, 10, 11—in that period of time, so I did get to know them—all interesting folks in their own way.

That reminds me that when I said that I lived on King Street, South Windsor, I found out in later life that, whether it was derogatory or not—I'm not sure—King Street was known as Cork Lane at one time, because everybody that lived on King Street was either an original immigrant from Ireland or a generation from an original immigrant, so

it was an interesting characterization of the street. As I said, I don't know if that was meant as complimentary or derogatory.

MACRO: Were the Irish families religious, generally speaking?

NICHOLSON: Oh, that's an interesting story, because, yes, obviously, Irish were Catholic. They were strongly religious. In fact—I think—Ireland, up until recent times, has had one of the largest population of Catholics—Ireland, the country, obviously. The only church that the Irish had, when they first came to South Windsor, was St. Mary's in East Hartford. It was a wooden structure. I remember it as a boy. It was near the overpass—the train trestle overpass in East Hartford; it was later demolished, and a new church was built with modern architecture.

MACRO: On the same site?

NICHOLSON: No, further up the street. They ventured down to East Hartford to go to church, or in many cases, went into St. Patrick's Church in Hartford. Some of those treks, I assume, were by horse and buggy. It was, I think, viewed as a very big monumental achievement for Catholics to build their own church in South Windsor [St. Francis of Assisi, on Ellington Road], and truly they raised the money to build it. Today, when I think that you get mortgages and grants and whatever, but it was built in 1941, and the interesting thing about that is it was during the war. They essentially ran out of the original materials that they were going to use, so the church was—up until probably the last 20 years—was never really finished properly inside the way it was designed to be finished. While it is a sandstone structure from the front, the sides and the back are brick, and brick was, of course, plentiful in South Windsor because we had at least two—in my memory—two brickyards.

Yes, the Irish—and I should add the Lithuanians, they were the other major Catholic ethnic group that settled in South Windsor—they were the founding ethnic groups of St. Francis of Assisi Church on Ellington Road, which is still there. Of course—I think—that's a good point, because I think at that time, there were—if memory serves me correctly—there were only three churches in South Windsor when I was a young boy in the '50s: the Catholic church on Ellington Road [St. Francis], the First Congregational Church on Main Street, and the Wapping Community Church—or it might have been the Wapping Congregational Church—whatever. Those were the only churches in South Windsor, so there were just really two main denominations where you worshipped—the Congregational Church and the Catholic Church.

[05:42] I perceived that there was a split in the town among the Congregationalists and the Catholics. It was a time when Catholic doctrine basically was embodied in something called the Baltimore Catechism and that told you, you couldn't go into a Protestant—as they would call it—a Protestant church. You couldn't participate even in a marriage in a Protestant church. I think you could attend, but you couldn't participate. There were all sorts of restrictions on trying to be ecumenical, which, of course, went by the boards when Pope John XXIII became Pope. Now—I guess—I've digressed on the religious denominations in South Windsor.

MACRO: Very interestingly so. I gather, though, that the church played a part in your life as you were growing up as a young boy. You were taken to church on Sundays?

NICHOLSON: We went to church on Sundays. My recollection is that there was—sort of—a fiery—not a fire and brimstone type of preacher, but a very inspired preacher by the name of Father Heffernan. He was the pastor. He was a very strong-willed, opinionated Irishman. While I don't recall all of the details, there was some sort of struggle with the board of education at one point, because he got up on the pulpit and railed about something either to do with buses for religious education or for release time—which I'll get to in a bit—but he was not beyond bringing up his differences with the prevailing government in South Windsor, which was essentially white male Protestants.

That was Father Heffernan, and it is interesting because there was such a large Lithuanian community in South Windsor; they had the assistant priest—there were always two priests: a pastor and an assistant priest – the curate. That assistant priest for probably 20 years—maybe 25 years—had to speak Lithuanian, so he could hear confessions. I don't know if they did a Lithuanian mass. I can't remember that. They may have, but he heard confessions from the Lithuanians. When I was growing up, the Lithuanian priest was Father Karvelis.

They [the Lithuanians] were more into potato farming than tobacco farming. There wasn't much integration in South Windsor. By integration, I'm talking about geographic integration. There wasn't much geographic integration in South Windsor, which was generally understood to be defined by Ellington Road to the West and Route 5/Main Street to the East. Everything east and northeast of Ellington Road was considered Wapping, and it was a separate, discrete community. There was very little integration between the two parts of South Windsor.

[10:09] Now, there was one high school. It was on Main Street: Ellsworth High School; but there were essentially two grammar schools. There was Union School on Main Street, which is where the South Windsor people lived; then there was Wapping School, which was on Ayers Road, essentially in probably the geographic center of the town, where the Wapping students went.

MACRO: In your secular schooling, you started off in the school on Main Street—the Union School?

NICHOLSON: I went to Union School for 8 years and graduated from Union School. I was the class president. Then I and about 8 or 9 other classmates from Union School went to East Catholic School in Manchester. Most of my Union classmates went to the new South Windsor High School. The freshman class in the fall of 1962 was the first freshman class to go to the new high school. Then Ellsworth became—because Union School closed at that point in 1962—an elementary school. We were the last graduating class of Union School in 1962.

MACRO: At your schooling at the Union school, were your colleagues from that part of South Windsor that you mentioned west of Ellington Road that came to Union School?

NICHOLSON: Yes, and actually, I think most of them—well, in the beginning that would've been the case. Most of the them, at the end, came from west of Route 5, because while I was going to Union School—I believe after fifth grade, the town built two more schools: Pleasant Valley School on Ellington Road and Avery Street School up on Avery Street, because of the growing population in South Windsor. We can talk about the growing population, but in that period of time we went from two to four schools. Therefore, from having probably close to 40 students in a class—I think our class had 40 students in fifth grade, because there was a shortage of desk space—to having probably 20 students when I graduated by three years later.

[13:19] There was a spike in population—a lot of communities at that time, the builders were able to take advantage of a lot of farmland in South Windsor. They were able to take advantage of these veterans' benefits for those low-income FHA loans, and between probably 1955 and 1960—I don't have the number on the top of my head—but I would say that South Windsor's population tripled. There was a huge influx of new people and new families and various subdivisions that were carved out from the farmland on half-acre lots with no sewers—which is a subject that became a problem later on, but that wasn't a problem when these were all approved in the 1950s.

MACRO: The demographics really changed?

NICHOLSON: The demographics changed drastically.

MACRO: Back to the schooling at Union School, if we may: this influx must have had some effect on the relationships between the various students and their backgrounds. You've mentioned before the Catholics and the Protestants. In your time at Union School, did you find, as the years went by, that the interaction between the students from various religious backgrounds was easy, or otherwise? Was it a factor in your life? Did you—?

NICHOLSON: I think in the beginning there was what I would call some segregation of the religious groups in my early years, but as we grew older that segregation lessened. In fact, my best friends in my classes were all Protestant—I think there was less and less emphasis on that.

MACRO: They elected you president?

NICHOLSON: (15:42) Well, that is because none of them wanted to give the graduation speech. I'm pretty sure that was the reason. I think Ms. Baronian, who was the eighth grade teacher, reminded everybody before they voted, "Now, if you're elected president, you have to give the graduation speech." So I had to give the graduation speech. I attribute that to my election as president.

MACRO: I see.

NICHOLSON: That is a good segue to another topic. We talked about religious differentiation in town, but there was also a political difference, and the two were aligned: the Democrats were predominantly Catholic, the Republicans were predominantly Protestant; this is in the early days, up until World War II, when there were essentially the two religious groups in town.

The Democratic Party that I think was typical of late 1800's, early 1900's, in Connecticut, only existed in the cities. The party was practically non-existent in the rural communities. We didn't have suburbs in those days. We had the cities and the small rural areas around the cities. They were essentially dominated by Republicans, and Connecticut was essentially a Republican state.

Then once the immigration of the Irish and the Italians came on the scene, and they started to move into the rural areas, that changed. Now, my family tells me that my grandfather was one of the three founders of the Democratic Party in South Windsor, and that was because he and his two Irish colleagues—I believe they were drinking buddies, and there might have been a place to drink in South Windsor in those days! I don't know, but anyway they decided at one point that they were going to embrace this Democratic Party, and so the Democratic Party started to grow in South Windsor. My family, especially my aunts Julia and Mary and my grandfather, were very active in the Democratic Party.

[A brief break in recording was taken here.]

Okay, thanks for this break. I got some English breakfast tea with honey, because my throat is getting raspy. I've got a cold, so for those of you future historians that are listening to this, I'm not normally as raspy as it sounds. I was talking about the embryonic Democratic Party in South Windsor, which was growing as the demographics of South Windsor changed. You asked me—I think—did the difference in religion prevail, as I got older? The answer is no. I will say this, however: I think the political differences started to—it was funny—the political differences started to intrude, to some extent. Let me give you an example.

[19:44] Because my grandfather and my aunts were very active in Democratic politics, I, as a kid, probably attended more Democratic type of political events than you would normally attend as a kid. My aunt Mary, who worked at Traveler's Insurance Company in Hartford, was talked into running for state representative in 1956. This was remarkable in a couple of respects. One—she was a woman, and obviously a woman had never run for state representative in South Windsor or probably in most rural towns. I haven't done any historical research on that. Somebody might contradict me, but certainly never in South Windsor. She was a Democrat.

Now, South Windsor, in 1956—there were two things going on. One was Dwight Eisenhower was President. He was one of the most popular presidents we have ever had. He was slated to win a very big overwhelming landslide over Adlai Stevenson, the governor of Illinois, who was running against Eisenhower for the second time- he had run

in 1952. My grandfather—I recall—counseled my aunt that she should not run in 1956, because it wasn't going to be a good year for Democrats, and she should wait until 1958, when Abraham Ribicoff, who was the Democratic governor, would be running for reelection—a popular Democratic governor.

It turned out that his counsel was right on the mark. Mary, who campaigned all over South Windsor—went to every event, door to door—you name it—many things that were never done in South Windsor politics before—lost to the incumbent Republican state representative, who was never seen in the campaign trail ever, anyplace in South Windsor. His name was Clint Buckland, and his nickname was “Front Porch Clint,” because he never left his front porch. He lived on Buckland Road and was probably from the old Buckland family that came there, and she lost badly, but she didn't lose as badly as Adlai Stevenson

Growing up, I remember in 1956 my third grade teacher was Mrs. Macinda. I was trying to remember her by her first name. Since we never called her by that, I don't remember. Her husband, Frank Macinda, was the chairman of the Republican Party. She very clearly let it be known where her political interests lay. I remember there was a classmate of mine, Lloyd Burnham, whose father was Dexter Burnham, and Dexter was extremely active in the Republican party. Lloyd came to class, at least on election day, if not more than that, with political buttons—“I like Ike,” and I'm sure one for Clint Buckland, although he might not have—I mean—that was uncharacteristic of him probably to have political buttons. You noticed some—sort of—of course, I was, at that point, starting to become a very partisan Democrat, so it was very upsetting to me.

MACRO: Your aunt never tried again? That was her one candidacy for state representative, or did she, in fact, follow up—?

NICHOLSON: She did not. She never tried again—never tried again.

MACRO: Your aunt was still living on King Street? That is where she was living then?

NICHOLSON: Pleasant Valley Road. Both aunts lived on Pleasant Valley Road with my grandfather. Grandfather died in 1957, and they were—all three—very active in Democratic politics at different levels, but none ever held elective office.

MACRO: By that time in the late 1950s, had the Democratic Party become established politically in town? I mean—had they made inroads on the town council, for instance?

NICHOLSON: I think—by 1958, with the change in the demographics and the population, there emerged a different political dynamic in town. The chairman of the Democratic Party in town was Harry Odlum. He lived on Main Street. Harry Odlum was very close to John Bailey, a very close friend. One of John Bailey's tenets—and certainly Harry Odlum's tenets—or principles—whatever you want to call it—of a political organization was to register these new residents who were coming into

South Windsor. They probably knew that seven out of ten of those new residents were going to register Democrat. As a result of the influx of new residents, the political demographics—the political identity of South Windsor— changed drastically from once being a sound Republican town to a Democratic town. In 1958, they elected a Democratic state representative. I don't remember that person's name, but I know that they elected a Democratic state representative for the first time.

[26:30] I don't know what happened to Front Porch Clint—whether he decided not to run in 1958 or he was defeated. We can look up in the records of the secretary of state to find the answer to that, but from that point on, in 1959—I believe—the selectmen were controlled by the Democrats. The reason I know this is that my best friend growing up, Bob Murray, who lived next door to me, his father ran for second selectman and that had traditionally been a Republican spot. Bob Murray's father won that race, and he beat Dexter Burnham who became third selectman. Then for a two-to-one split, Tom Burgess was the first selectman—a long-time serving first selectman and a Democrat, and therefore, it became a Democratic Board of Selectmen in 1959. Interestingly enough, then they went to a council and manager form of government, and they had their first council election in 1961.

MACRO: That is interesting. I didn't know when that change took place.

NICHOLSON: Nineteen sixty-one, and at this same time—and just getting it back to religion—we had now all of the change in the Catholic Church with the 2nd Vatican Council and all of the changes that were going on, starting with Pope John XXIII's elevation to Pope in 1958, as it were. Those were exciting times. The Church had never seen the like of the type of change that took place between the time he was elevated to Pope and the time he died. Anyway, we had that going on and at the same time we had significant/major shifts within our democratic polity.

MACRO: The family—at this time, we're talking about late 1950s and the 1960s—your father was still farming?

NICHOLSON: My father was farming.

MACRO: A hard job—I know—but generally, was he successful?

NICHOLSON: He was. I don't know when his father first started growing tobacco, but I happen to think it was in the early 1900s. They had tobacco farms all along the Pleasant Valley Road and in rear farmland on Main Street, both to the east and West. At that particular time, this was all grown for cigar tobacco, and it was broadleaf tobacco, not shade grown, because shade grown was used for a different part of the cigar. Broadleaf was usually placed into the binder between the filler and the wrapper. I believe shaved row was used for the wrapper. There were three parts to a cigar. The Connecticut Valley tobacco cigars were regarded as some of the best in the world—pre-Cuban cigars, that is. Because of that—because of the price paid for them—tobacco farmers did very well.

[30:12] Then in the mid to late '50s—and I'm really not certain of the genesis of this—there was a process developed to grind up tobacco and turn it into tobacco paper. It was produced from a combination of tobacco and non-tobacco substances. I don't really know how it was done— but the method was introduced by NuWay Tobacco up on Sullivan Avenue.

MACRO: It was owned by the Shepard family. Is that right?

NICHOLSON: Yes, or at that time was owned by the Shepards. They were the—at least as far as Connecticut River valley—I think they were the leaders in this new production—what they called homogenized tobacco. That dampened the price of the broadleaf tobacco products, because it was not in as much demand as prior years. It lowered the price the farmers were getting and drove many of the tobacco farmers—probably almost half, if not more, of the tobacco farmers out of business. Well, it got to the point where those tobacco farmers had to seek other employment to supplement their income.

MACRO: This is early 1960s, you said?

NICHOLSON: No, late 1950s. The late 1950s was also a time when the economy was somewhat depressed. I don't recall my economic history that well, but I believe in the late 1950s there was a slowdown in the economy, which, coupled with the depressed tobacco prices, caused tobacco farmers to leave the business, many going to work in the defense industry, primarily, Pratt & Whitney and Hamilton Standard. We saw a change in the dynamics of tobacco farming in South Windsor. My father, though, stayed. He didn't leave. He didn't grow less tobacco. He stayed, and I think he did very well—oh, he did well.

MACRO: Despite this mechanization, this process of homogenization?

NICHOLSON: Well, now, as tobacco farmers dropped out, the supply was affected, so I think there was some stabilization in price, but the tobacco farmers' income never returned to pre-1950s levels.

MACRO: Did he diversify at all into other types of crops?

NICHOLSON: He did some diversification. He did sweet corn a little bit, but hardly anything to speak of.

MACRO: Were you regularly in the tobacco fields during the appropriate time yourself?

NICHOLSON: [33:25] I didn't spend all of my young years on the tobacco field, but I did spend a lot of time there.

MACRO: Your father employed seasonal workers, I suppose?

NICHOLSON: He would. There were two types of seasonal workers. There were the seasonal workers that he would go into Hartford every morning and get. Those were the ones that would be used in the non-harvest part of the business. You didn't need as many workers in the non-harvest part of the business. Now, they tended to be—well, today I think they would be regarded as homeless, but in those days they were regarded as itinerant.

MACRO: Yes.

NICHOLSON: They would likely live in a rooming house in Hartford, and they would probably spend some of their day's pay at a pub or bar when they returned to Hartford after work that night, but they were always there in the morning. He would pick them up in his truck, and would bring them out to South Windsor, and they would work nine hours a day, either planting tobacco, or hoeing tobacco, or 'suckering' tobacco. Then after harvest—I'll talk about harvest in a minute—they would strip the tobacco leaves in a mild October day that was pouring rain, so the tobacco was damp, and the leaves weren't crispy and dry. They could be taken down from the poles in the shed where they had been hung after harvest and stripped, and then finally sorted into different varieties.

[35:17] Harvest was a different situation, because harvest required a lot of employees, and I think my father's payroll probably was about 40 employees at that time—mostly high school teenagers. You could hire tobacco workers at 14 years of age. They clamored to get a job. The phone would start ringing off the hook in June. They all wanted to work on tobacco. I think my mother was the green card keeper of this, and she would just ask how old they were and take their word for it—that they were 14. There was no inspection etc. believe—now that in later life I have become a tax lawyer—I believe that farm workers were not subject to withholding of any Social Security, but I don't know. Since the statute of limitations probably has run in my father's business there, I don't think there was any withholding of Social Security for those kids. They were paid in cash.

MACRO: Did you join them at the harvest? Were you part of that?

NICHOLSON: It depended on... Well, I started out doing water delivery, and then eventually filled in where I could. Eventually, I was in charge of driving the riggings in and out of the shed. That was my final job in that—to keep things moving. My father was very adamant about making sure that the riggings were brought out of the shed in time. He never wanted anyone to be idle.

MACRO: Was your father actively farming up until the time of his death?

NICHOLSON: Yes, he was.

MACRO: When did he die?

NICHOLSON: In 1973, and so he was 65.

MACRO: It was a prospering enterprise up until the time of his death?

NICHOLSON: Yes, it was.

MACRO: You said that he liked to use time efficiently and effectively. Was he very tied to his farm? Did he take time off? Did the family have holidays?

NICHOLSON: No—essentially no. There was always something to be done on the farm. I forgot to add that he had workhorses as part of the farm. There were four workhorses that he had, and they were used for cultivating and different other jobs—before we had tractors. They required constant care. Once in a while, we would go for maybe two or three days to either a beach—Rhode Island maybe—or up in New Hampshire. My father liked to go to the horse races in the season. So sometimes we would all head up to New Hampshire, where there was some horse racing. But he was really devoted to the farm, and there was always something to be done.

MACRO: In England, if we talk about going to the horse races, the implication is that one has a bet. Was your father a betting person? Did he—?

NICHOLSON: [39:18] Well, I think he would bet when he went to the horse races, but I can't say that he did that more than two or three times a year, and obviously in the fall, so I don't—he certainly wasn't what you would call a gambler. He was a very, very conservative person—financially—fiscally.

MACRO: Were you an extended family? Did you tend to do things together with your aunts, so there was a lot of coming and going?

NICHOLSON: There was a lot of family community going on there—for example, celebration of holidays together. Then my mother's family was involved too. We would visit my grandparents and my uncle down in Hartford. Yes, there was an extended family. I spent a lot of time with my aunts. I would visit them on weekends—sometimes do some sleepovers there. I'd have some of my meals there. I was there when they would entertain their political friends—eavesdrop on their conversations. [laughs]

MACRO: I think Bob Murray was a very close friend of yours?

NICHOLSON: Yes—he lived next door.

MACRO: I imagine you spent a lot of time initially playing with him as a young

boy, because he was about your age, wasn't he?

NICHOLSON: [40:48] He was two years older. I played with him and his sister Susan. She was one year older than me. Those were my playmates growing up.

MACRO: Your sister, Margaret, she is younger than you, I believe?

NICHOLSON: Yes, by five years.

MACRO: Oh, that is quite a difference then, so she was not so much part of the play-group, I imagine.

NICHOLSON: No, she wasn't.

[A second brief break was taken here.]

MACRO: Richard, carrying on from that point where we left off, can you say anything about your parents' aspirations, both for themselves and for you and your sister?

NICHOLSON: Sure—we left off talking about my father and the farm, and I should give you a background on my mother. When she left South Windsor for Hartford, she was 7 years old. She was enrolled in the Hartford school system, and went to Bulkeley High School for her high school years. Now, what I know now is that the Hartford school system in those days far surpassed the South Windsor school system in the quality of the education given to its students. When she graduated from Bulkeley High School, I think she was second or third in her class. It was a tremendous achievement. She talked about having PhDs—like you would have at Trinity College, but she would have them at the high school level—very, very dedicated teachers and instructors that they had. The things that she read in high school literature—sort of—stunned me when I heard about it—Dickens and others that I didn't have when I was in high school.

She had a business background from high school, so she went on to become a secretary at Traveler's Insurance Company. From what I understand, she was a very, very successful secretary. She did shorthand and all correspondence, and she was very good at it, from what I've picked up—not just from her. She was too modest to tell me that she was good at it, but I picked it up. I knew how talented she was from just the way that she would help me with math principles and English—her written English was superb, so she would correct my English. She was very good at it. She left Traveler's when she got married. I always suspected that she was a little bit like my grandmother. I think my grandmother was very glad to get out of farming, and I don't think my mother probably—a speculation on my part—was glad to get into it as a young married woman. It was a new type of life for her.

[44:29] I think both of my parents—their big aspiration—we never verbalized it, but I think it was there—was they wanted their children to be able to get a college education. Obviously, at that point, it was the most important thing you could do. Their generation wasn't able to go to college. They didn't have the funds. They didn't have the wherewithal. You had to work on the farm. They grew up in the Depression, though they didn't talk much about it. It was a very, very difficult time to grow up. Their parents went through some horrid situations. They always had jobs. Of course, the farm had to go on, even in the war, but the period between the Depression and the War was a time of scarcity and deprivation. They had a difficult period growing up, whereas, we as children—I think—did not have a difficult period growing up. I think it was their aspiration that their children—and it seems to be the case with everybody I went to school with at that time—would go on to college.

MACRO: Did they tend to—in conversations with you—look back to those kinds of hardship and trouble as a sort of—strange to say—golden age, a time when people pulled together and everything was straightforward and honest and real? I say that because that is my experience, as I look back to the wartime years when we suffered deprivations in London. I look back to it as a kind of wonderful magical period. Did they put a color to it?

NICHOLSON: No, in fact, I think they just had the opposite feeling. I think that they used it to say, “You have no idea how difficult it was for us—what we went through. Now, you don't have it that difficult. In fact, you've always wanted a new toy or a new bicycle. If we wanted a bicycle, we had to find a secondhand one, and we had to put it together and repair it and do that all ourselves.” It was just the opposite reaction, but I was encouraged to go to college, obviously. I think that, for the most part, that was probably the aspiration of everybody on Main Street.

MACRO: I know that you went to the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. You earlier reminded me that you went to East Catholic High School?

NICHOLSON: East Catholic High School, yes, in Manchester.

MACRO: Two Catholic institutions—so this was clearly deliberate. You didn't go to the local high school—the secular high school in South Windsor. This was a choice. What caused that choice?

NICHOLSON: That is an interesting question, and I am trying to recollect in my own mind how much of the choice was mine and how much of the choice was my parents'—but I do think—and I want to be careful how I say this; I don't want to denigrate the South Windsor educational system, but there was the perception at that particular time that East Catholic High School—which was brand new—had as its goal to provide a better education than the public school system. From my experience there with the teachers that were there, that was the case. I think I was challenged. I got a very good

education, and as a result of going to East Catholic High School—I think—you were steered to the Catholic college system.

[49:30] I know that some of my classmates at East Catholic—because it didn't have a strong track record at that time of graduates, as we were a relatively new school—we were only the second graduating class—found it hard to get into some of the schools—like Williams and Wesleyan and then even Trinity, although one of my high school classmates became a football hero, and he is a great guy—Richard Harvey—at Trinity College.

MACRO: Your sister also went to a Roman Catholic school and college, didn't she?

NICHOLSON: She went to East Catholic also, and then she went to Newton College, which later merged with Boston College.

MACRO: Boston College?

NICHOLSON: Yes. It amazes me when I think of what students go through today—the process by which they get into a college. I didn't go through that at all. I narrowed my choice to two colleges—Holy Cross and Fairfield University. I had eliminated BC for a lot of reasons. I can't recall them all now. I think it was the size. I wanted to go to a small liberal arts college and most of the people that I talked to—both in and out of high school—sang the praises of Holy Cross. It was my first choice. I got in and spent four years there and graduated.

MACRO: Did the fact of your going to East Catholic and the Holy Cross—did that separate you in any way from any of your earlier friendships?

NICHOLSON: Oh, definitely, definitely. I did not retain—maybe for the first freshman year I retained some friendships, but by far I never retained those friendships with my Union School classmates. I mean—there were some Union School classmates that went to East Catholic, and I continued with them, obviously—we all took the classes at East Catholic, but I did not have any kind of interaction with the South Windsor High School students—no interaction whatsoever.

MACRO: I know that is very much likely to happen when one goes off to a different school system. It happened to me too.

NICHOLSON: [52:29] There was a type of isolation, because while East Catholic was made up of four towns in those days—Manchester, East Hartford, Glastonbury, and South Windsor—Glastonbury and South Windsor did not send the number of students to East Catholic that the other two towns did, so on weekends, you were fairly isolated. I mean—it is not like there weren't any times you got together. You went to the bowling alley, or you hung out here, or there was a party to go to. This was when you weren't driving—after you got your driver's license, it was a different story.

The South Windsor and Glastonbury students were regarded as farmers, and literally I was a farmer, but most people were characterized as farmers because they lived in towns regarded as the boondocks.

Now, that is interesting too because there wasn't a lot of social interaction in South Windsor, which I think would be different today, so that therefore, even though I went to another high school, if you lived on Main Street—or you lived near Main Street—you lived west of Route 5—you would have thought there would be more social interaction with families up and down Main Street, and for some reason, that never happened.

MACRO: Did you ride your bike up Main Street?

NICHOLSON: I did. I did a lot of bike riding, and I probably... It's an interesting story. One of the first things that we were—I don't want to use the word 'greeted'—met with when I got to East Catholic was the way that they had to raise funds, which was to sell magazines. I embraced this idea of getting the award for selling magazines, so I took my bike and my magazine subscription packets and rode up and down all over Main Street and the side streets—Pleasant Valley, Chapel, Newberry—and I must've knocked on so many doors. A lot of people—you get to know how people feel about being solicited, but because people knew my family, they bought magazines. They were the popular magazines, and so people wanted them; and of course, I think my family bought some—and so I won some sort of prize.

[55:10] Yes, I remember freshman year—right—doing a lot of bike riding up and down Main Street. I actually would be able to tell you every family up and down Main Street at that time. Of course, I'm talking of a number of years ago.

MACRO: That's because you were knocking on the doors.

NICHOLSON: To some extent knocking on the doors, but also because I grew up in the area. Your parents would say, "So and so lives here. So and so lives here," so I—sort of—knew all my classmates from Union School. I knew who their neighbors were, so I could basically tell you everybody. I wasn't as familiar with the people that lived on the hill—East Windsor Hill. They had a reputation of being a little standoffish—the Lasburys and I forgot who else was up there—the Raymonds. I don't think that they—I mean, for instance, I would never have gone up to the door of Lillian Lasbury—or Celia Lasbury, I'm sorry—and try to sell them magazines. It was unheard of. I knew enough that you didn't do that type of thing. I probably wouldn't go up to old Mrs. Shepard either; I say 'old'. I mean the grandmother Mrs. Shepard. I probably wouldn't have gone to her house and try to sell her a magazine. She might not be too enthused about buying the magazine from a student from East Catholic anyway.

MACRO: Your parents knew who lived up and down Main Street?

NICHOLSON: Absolutely.

MACRO: How would they get to know that? I mean—it is quite a long street. Were there any community endeavors where people would get together and get to know each other?

NICHOLSON: Well, that is an interesting question. My father would know all of the farmers up and down Main Street. Since he grew up there, he would know most of the people who were living there. My mother didn't get out as much as he did. He was out every day, but there was no—well, I can't think of many occasions where there was any kind of community gathering with other Main Street families. There were no parties. My mother and father didn't go to parties, nor did they entertain a lot, other than family gatherings.

MACRO: Do you think there were many parties?

NICHOLSON: [57:51] That's a good question. I don't think so—like we know them today.

MACRO: But you had family parties?

NICHOLSON: Yes, we had family gatherings. There wasn't—I mean—I'm trying to think... There were certain events that I remember going to at the old town hall, which was on Main Street—the 1920's, 1930's building that was across from Bossen's store. I forgot about Bossen's store and the post office. That was another gathering place for people on Main Street, so they would gather there probably. You'd get to know people there, or there would be an event at the town hall. There was also the Wood Library which was on Main Street, and there would be some events there—not very many. There used to be a social club called the Wednesday Afternoon Club, and I think that that was probably more for non-working women on Main Street who got together for—I don't know what.

MACRO: Was that held at the library?

NICHOLSON: Yes, for tea—I think—upstairs in the library

MACRO: Did you frequent the library?

NICHOLSON: I went to the library, yes. I would borrow books there. I was an avid reader of the Hardy Boy mystery series. I think I read every Hardy Boy mystery. I went on to Nancy Drew mysteries. I still read mysteries to this day though.

MACRO: Well, getting back to your career, I think we should move on to that. During your time at the College of the Holy Cross, the United States was at war in Vietnam.

NICHOLSON: That's right. Let's see—I was in high school—East Catholic High School—when the Gulf of Tonkin resolution in 1965 was passed. I should say that one thing I remember from high school politically is that the 1964 presidential race was extremely interesting. You know what? Let's talk a little bit about John Kennedy, and I forgot to do that. John Kennedy was—at the election of 1960—to go back to the political differences—a huge election for Irish Catholics and other immigrants that worked to change that barrier about a Catholic president being elected. I remember my Aunt Julia telling me the story that she had a conversation with Ed Lassman, who was an attorney in town and also state representative in town. I think Ed Lassman was state representative in the early 1960s.

[1:01:42] He said to my aunt—I'll never forget it—"Don't underestimate how much the Jewish population worked to break down that barrier about a Catholic being president, because breaking down that barrier was also hopefully breaking down a barrier for a Jewish president," which to this day—2011—hasn't happened. John Kennedy had a very powerful influence on us when I started high school—a president who was much more like our parents' generation, because he was part of their generation that served in World War II, inspiring that whole Camelot type of presidency, and I think we were all enthralled by it. We were devastated when he was assassinated—something that we would—as a high school student—have read about in the history of presidents who had been assassinated or the attempted assassinations, but never ever thought that was possible in the 1960's.

Then there was the election of 1964, which is where I broke off a second ago, where it was the dichotomy between Lyndon Johnson and Barry Goldwater. I recall there was this debate—I believe—between two students, one of whom—and I don't recall his name—but he was an avid, avid Goldwater advocate. We all looked at him strangely, because everybody thought Goldwater was a little nutty—far right. I think—even in today's ideology—in 2011, Goldwater would probably be a moderate conservative, but he would've stood up for individual rights, which are very often being—now, my political views are coming out a little bit—but being often trampled by people who want to have higher social ends than respecting individual rights as well. We digress on a political note here.

The war started in 1965. I was still in high school. It escalated as I went to college. My roommate in college was in Air Force ROTC. A couple of my classmates on my corridor were in Navy ROTC. I had not joined ROTC—hadn't given it any thought. As the war progressed and escalated and more and more young people were being drafted, one of the things that became a concern to us as college students was our draft deferment. I don't think any of us at that point had thought a lot about the wisdom of the Vietnam War. I think we were concerned whether we would wind up fighting in Vietnam. From what we had seen in the images, we knew it was not going well for the United States, even though the country was told otherwise by its leadership.

[1:05:12] Sometime during that first year in college, I became convinced that the best course of action for me was to go into Naval ROTC, and so I joined starting in my sophomore year. I had to make up a year of ROTC classes. When the draft deferments were eliminated—and I believe that was in 1968, '69—and went to the lottery, it turned

out to be a wise decision, because I had a low draft number, and I probably would have been drafted right away. I can't remember whether you were able to complete college or not, but I certainly would've been drafted when I got out of college.

When I was faced with graduating senior year, my goal was to go to law school, so I had applied to two law schools, and I had hoped that I would get in and then defer them until I got out of the navy. My advisor in the navy encouraged me and a couple of others to seek a deferment of my active duties, get my law school degree, and then serve in the advocate general corps for the navy as a lawyer—a navy lawyer. He wasn't too encouraging. He was encouraging me to do it, but he wasn't encouraging about my being accepted, because he said, "With everything that is going on, we haven't had acceptances," but lo and behold! three of us got deferred. I was one of them.

I wound up going to UConn Law School. I didn't really intend to do that right away. I don't think I was even mentally prepared for it, but I wound up going to UConn Law School in September of 1970, and I got a law degree in 1973. Now, I was slated then at that point to go into the naval Judge Advocate General Corps—the JAG corps. Two things were going on. One was my father had passed away in September of 1973, when I was just about to go into the JAG corps, and he had an active farming operation at that time that needed to be wound down. My sister was in college. My mother was unemployed, and so there was a question as to whether I needed to defer that entry into the JAG corps, so I could wind down things. I made some enquiries, and lo and behold! I found out that probably the best course, because of the war's winding down at that point—it is now 1973—and the war was disengaging, there was no longer a need for as many JAG corps officers, so they offered me the opportunity to resign my commission and satisfy my military obligation with the Navy.

[1:08:34] Having been relieved of my military obligation, I then worked on the farm for about a year winding things down, and then started a law practice and joined with Ed Kuehn, who was the probate judge, and became a part of his law practice for about five years. I later decided—and that experience led me to believe—like I think with the other professions—that I didn't want to be a 'jack of all trades and master of none'. I wanted to acquire a specialty in law, so I concentrated in the area of estate taxation and later in state taxation, and then spent 30 years working as a tax lawyer, either with the state or in the private sector.

MACRO: To develop that proficiency in tax law, did you return to UConn for special courses or did you take night courses?

NICHOLSON: I took—the answer to that is no. I mean—one of the ways you can do that is to get an LLM. It's a master in law in taxation. There were two schools that offered it—Boston University and NYU. I toyed with the idea of doing it, but that would require me to drop out for a year and go to school in New York or up to Boston. I chose instead to take some courses at the University of Hartford, which offered a master's of science in taxation, and then just to pursue it on my own—teach myself, essentially, so I'm—sort of—self-taught.

MACRO: From the general practice, you moved into tax law and into state

employ?

NICHOLSON: That's right.

MACRO: Your career in the state—what were the stages that you went through there?

NICHOLSON: Well, I started out as a tax attorney, and it was doing some estate tax work; I did that for some years. I then branched out into all state taxes—sales tax. We didn't have an income tax in those days, but I became proficient—I'll use the word—I became adept in some of the aspects of state taxation, and I eventually was appointed to head up a legal division, because the department didn't have a legal division, or it had one tax attorney in that area, so one was formed. I headed it up and later became general counsel. Then I left law—specifically law there—and became an administrator and deputy commissioner and later commissioner—always using my legal background—much to the chagrin of many of my employees, but I didn't forget that part. Yes, that was my ladder through the state.

MACRO: You were commissioner for how long?

NICHOLSON: A year and a half. It was at the end of my career. I was appointed by Governor Rell [M. Jodi Rell] in 2010. I knew that it was always a possibility when you take an appointed political position that you live by the sword, die by the sword. Even though I was a Democrat serving in a Republican administration, I was replaced by a Democrat, when the Democratic governor was sworn in, in 2011—earlier this year.

MACRO: You retired then?

NICHOLSON: [1:12:34] I did retire, yes, although I'm chomping at the bit to get involved in something. One of the things that I did—I should say this—from my earliest times, I've been very interested in politics. I was fascinated by it. I wasn't a political science major, and I think the reason was that The Holy Cross didn't have a strong political science department. I'm sure they've changed that now. I was a history major, but with an emphasis on American political history. I tried to get as many political history courses as I could. It was important for me to keep up with current events, especially the politics of current events. As I became more of a critical thinker, especially during the Vietnam era, I was starting to challenge some of the ideas of the Democratic President and the Democratic Congress.

I have one amusing anecdote about that. When I was home from college I would visit my two aunts. They always got the *New York Times*, so it was a good chance to catch up on world affairs and the *New York Times* is one of the best newspapers. It still is. We would have a Sunday dinner, and this was in 1968, when Lyndon Johnson still hadn't decided whether to run for president. I think Gene McCarthy was challenging him in the New Hampshire primaries and was successful. Things were very turbulent in politics at

that time. The one person that impressed me was Nelson Rockefeller. Now, later in life, I would see other things about Nelson Rockefeller that I didn't see at that point, and probably one of the most important things about looking at Nelson Rockefeller's career is the uprising at Attica prison, which has been documented since then in some very good books.

At that particular time, he appealed to me, and I brought that up at the dinner table to my aunt. I think my Aunt Julia hung her head, and she said to me in an incredulous voice, "But he is a Republican!" So family obligations prevailed at that point, and I never again brought up any kind of Republican leanings that I might have, even if I harbored them at any future time. My mother always said that she did not believe that my aunts ever voted for anybody but a Democratic candidate. She could not say the same about herself.

MACRO: I don't think we've mentioned—have we—the fact that you did enter politics yourself?

NICHOLSON: I did, and I was going to say that. I was a student of politics, but I never entertained running for politics. I never aspired to a political office. I don't know why. I was fascinated by politics, but not to the point where I wanted to run for politics. Lo and behold! in 1979, I was working at the state, and I was active in Democratic party politics in South Windsor, but as a party worker. I had worked on a political campaign. Let me drop back and talk a little bit about another Vietnam story.

[1:16:58] In 1970, and I was just out of Holy Cross, and one of the things that those of us who had come to—oppose the war in Vietnam. Now, we were going to work as we graduated, we were into antiwar candidates in that election. That was a big election in 1970. It wasn't a presidential election. Nixon had become president, and he was unpopular because of the invasion of Cambodia. There was a huge strike in colleges across the campuses—the Kent State shootings. There were marches in Washington—very, very turbulent times. We had vowed—many of us—to go and work for congressional candidates, senatorial candidates that were going to change the war in Vietnam. Father Robert Drinan, who was the dean at a BC law school, ran as a challenging candidate to an established Democratic congressman in the outskirts of Boston.

Interestingly enough, I attached myself to—I never really was a Gene McCarthy backer in 1968—but I attached myself to Joe Duffey's campaign for U.S. Senate in 1970. Joe Duffey was an anti-war candidate. He was a minister of the Congregational church, and he was challenging Tom Dodd for reelection. At that particular time, it was very, very difficult for a candidate to wage a primary in Connecticut. It was extremely difficult because it was all tied up in percentage of delegates at a party convention. The party convention was essentially controlled by the party, and the party in those days was Johnson and Bailey.

Duffey, because of the unpopularity of the war and because of his strong ties to the McCarthy movement, was able to elect delegates in many of the small towns, including South Windsor to the state convention. I became involved in his campaign, and I actually wound up running his campaign in South Windsor, and we were successful in

the primary. Tom Dodd dropped out to run as an independent, but John Bailey got another candidate to run. His name was Al Donohue. One of the interesting anecdotes of that was that my Aunt Mary just happened to run the Al Donohue campaign in South Windsor, and I was running the Duffey, campaign. She respected that. She understood that this is what happens in politics. When I won, she congratulated me, “Well done job.”

[1:20:01] I had worked in that campaign. I worked on a local campaign for town council in 1971. This is my first time working on a campaign—I mean—including putting some ideas together, putting ads together. We were successful. The Democratic Party was successful winning in 1971. That is a prelude to a call I got in 1979, when Bob Smith, who I believe at that point was Democratic Party chairman, said, “I need a candidate for town council. We’ve only got five candidates, and I want you to run.” I said, “I’m not interested. I have no desire at all.” I had no idea what this involved, actually running as a candidate. I should say, I knew from working on campaigns, but it wasn’t something that I was embracing personally.

I thought about it and thought about it, and finally agreed to do it. It was a time when there was turmoil on the town council. They mayor had been Nancy Caffyn, and the deputy mayor had been Robert Myette, and there were stories about how stressful, how unproductive—other things the town council was—shouting matches and a few other things. The public was ready to clean house, and they elected all six Democrats, and I was one of them. Frankly speaking, to an historian, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. It was fascinating, though. It became fascinating. I served 6 years on the town council and learned a lot about local government.

I use the lessons that I learned to this day. I know how difficult it is, having served at that elected office, even at that level—how difficult it is to balance the competing interests that you have to, between those that want more money spent for the board of education and those that want to keep the tax rate low and try to keep the roads improved and the capital improvements that have to be done and the things that you just can’t say no to, and then go to the voters and explain why you had to raise their taxes. When we were finally voted out of office, and I was voted out of office—I have to say—it was because the Democrats succumbed to a campaign that said that we raised the mill rate 8½ mills. Mills is a function of how much your property is assessed times what taxes you need to raise. It is a meaningless figure, depending where you are on a re-evaluation, but to the public, 8½ mills sounded like an outrageous amount. However in politics, right or wrong, the voters have the final say.

[1:23:06] You serve the public, and when they feel that you’ve raised your taxes too much, it is time to exit the stage. I was very glad to do that, and I actually met a fellow at the local coffee store down here at SoG’s who had served on the town council of Glastonbury for 4 years and lost the last election here in Glastonbury. I went up to him. I know him from the gym, and I said, “Rob, my condolences to you, but I want to tell you a story. The same thing happened to me after six years in South Windsor, and I look back on it and say, “It was an important break for me. Life goes on. We go on to other things, and for me, those other things were better things.”

I don’t diminish my service to the town. If I had to do it over again, I’d do it again, but I won’t say I’ll never run for public office again, because some days I get so agitated with stuff I read that you never know. Working as commissioner and in the roles

that I had in state government put me in the company of state representatives and state senators and governors. You begin to appreciate that they're mere mortals and that you can do that job too.

MACRO: Yes. Well, you said, not so long ago, that you were getting a little bit frustrated, or I don't know if you used the word frustrated, but—

NICHOLSON: Chomping at the bit, I said.

MACRO: Chomping at the bit, yes, so maybe you should get back into politics. Maybe this is the opportunity. I've always admired many things about you. One of them is your political sensibility. I think the citizens of the state would benefit from such a move.

NICHOLSON: Time will tell. We may have to do another oral history.

MACRO: In the meanwhile, Richard, thank you very, very much for submitting to this interview.

NICHOLSON: Thank you.

MACRO: On behalf of the Wood Memorial Library oral history committee, I want to say formally, thank you very, very much.

NICHOLSON: I appreciate it.

[Audio ends] [85:41]

[This text was amended by ADM according to revision by RDN, Spring 2012.]

ADDENDUM

For many years RDN lived at 754 North King Street, in an antique Colonial house, which he had moved from its original site across the street in April 1982. He now lives in South Glastonbury. (ed.)

INDEX

- 2**
2nd Vatican Council, 7
- B**
Bailey, John, 21
Baronian, Ms., 5
Bossen's Store, 16
Boston College, 14
Boston University, 19
Broadleaf tobacco, 8
Buckland, Clint, 6, 7
Bulkeley High School, 12
Burgess, Tom, 7
Burnham, Dexter, 6
Burnham, Lloyd, 6
- C**
Caffyn, Nancy, 21
College of the Holy Cross, 13, 14, 17, 20, 21
- D**
Dodd, Tom, 21
Donohue, Al, 21
Drinan, Robert, 21
Duffy, Joe, 21
- E**
East Catholic High School, Manchester, CT, 4, 13,
14, 15, 16, 17
East Hartford, 2
Eisenhower, Dwight D., 6
- F**
Fairfield University, 14
Farming, 3, 8, 9, 12
First Congregational Church, 2
- G**
Goldwater, Barry, 17
Great Depression, 12
Gulf of Tonkin resolution, 17
- H**
Hamilton Standard, 9
Harvey, Richard, 14
- Heffernan, Father, 3
- I**
Ireland, 1, 2
Irish, 2, 5, 17
- J**
JAG corps, 18
Johnson, Lyndon B., 17, 20, 21
- K**
Karvelis, Father, 3
Kennedy, John F., 17
Kent State shootings, 21
Kuehn, Ed, 19
- L**
Lasbury, Celia, 15
Lassman, Ed, 17
Lithuanian, 3
- M**
Macinda, Frank, 6
Macinda, Mrs., 6
Main Street, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 15, 16
McCarthy, Eugene, 20, 21
Murray, Bob, 7, 11
Murray, Susan, 11
Myette, Robert, 22
- N**
New York University, 19
Nicholson, Annie Fahey, 1, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 20
Nicholson, Richard P., 1
Nicholson, Thomas Edward, 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16,
18
Nixon, Richard M., 21
NuWay Tobacco, 8
- O**
Odlum, Harry, 7
- P**
Pope John XXIII, 3, 7
Pratt & Whitney, 9

R

Rell, M. Jodi, 19
Ribicoff, Abraham, 6
Rockefeller, Nelson, 20
ROTC, 18

S

Shepard Family, 8
Shepard, Mrs., 15
Smith, Bob, 21
South Windsor, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15,
20, 21, 22
St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2
St. Patrick's Church, 2
Stevenson, Adlai E., 6

T

Tobacco, 3, 8, 9, 10

Traveler's Insurance Company, 12
Trinity College, 12, 14

U

Union School, 3, 4, 14, 15
University of Connecticut, 18, 19

V

Vietnam War, 17, 18, 20, 21

W

Wapping Congregational Church, 2
Wednesday Afternoon Club, 16
Wood Library, 16